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IDEAS

about 4-H Clubs and YMW



Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture



No. 4

Washington 25, D. C.
December 15, 1953

For your information
and appropriate action

Dear Coworker:

CHRISTMAS - 1953

"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature,
and in favour with God and man."

Luke 2:52

From the birth of a child came strength for a weary world. From the growth of that child came hope for the fulfillment of God's destiny. From the strength of that child came courage, convictions, and faith in the common man. And from His love and dedications was inspired a new formula for man's relations with his fellow man.

And still today, in our progress toward ultimate freedom of body and spirit, the same star shines, the same opportunity holds--for service--and for extension of truth and love--through training young heads for clearer thinking, hearts to greater loyalty, hands to larger service, and health to better living--

For Love and the warmth of it,
For Faith and the strength of it,
For Peace, or the hope of it.

Leaders and extension workers may find strength and personal satisfaction in this little verse written by a group of young people to one who held the lamp of knowledge and truth for them a decade ago.

A TRIBUTE TO LEADERSHIP

The years have rushed along on fleeting wing,
Time waits for naught, yet now our gifts we bring.
Because you lived and served and nobly shared,
Young hearts are stout and warm - they know you cared.
You held for them a high, safe, beacon light
To guide them through the maze of dawn and night.
With fervent hearts, our thanks to you, we give
As youth holds high your torch . . . inspired to live!

CLUB CONGRESS AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

We feel mighty good about the National Club Congress just completed. Congratulations are due to a lot of folks who worked hard to make it the successful event that it was. We hope our friends at the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work have been able to relax from the pressure that goes with getting the innumerable Congress details in gear.

One has to see the Congress to really appreciate the fine degree of cooperation which exists between the folks at the National Committee, the donor group, the public relations representatives, and the Extension staff members.

Those of you who took committee responsibility, and that's practically all of you who attended, can have the satisfaction that comes with knowing your job was well done.

OFFICIAL 4-H DATES FOR '54

A fresh, clean slate once more! Let's red letter it with these official 4-H Club dates for 1954:

National 4-H Club Week	March 6 - 14
National 4-H Sunday	May 23
National 4-H Club Camp	June 16 - 23
National 4 H Achievement Day	November 13
National 4-H Club Congress	November 28-December 2

Our next "Ideas" letter will alert you to plans originating from here for National 4-H Club Week. Already, you have had a preview of the fine poster made available by the Spool Cotton Co.

You can also anticipate hearing about plans for the visit of the National Achievement, Leadership, and Citizenship winners to make a report to the Nation's top leaders, about radio and television salutes, and numerous press releases.

The manual for 4-H events, issued this past year, will still be our working tool through 1954.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

The "Blue Book" especially emphasizes the work with young people. It is heartening to know this, to see the fine thinking that many of you are doing, to know the inclusion in an Extension family approach, and to look forward to the promise of a bright future for more effort with young persons.

TRAVEL PLANS FOR STAFF

We are grateful to you for the prompt replies to the requests for assistance by our staff, under the new travel plan. Knowing your preferences, we can now plan ahead much more effectively.

May we suggest that you do not overlook others here in the Federal office who may be able to give your State help with 4-H and YMW programs.

INTERSTATE CONFERENCES OF EXTENSION YOUTH WORKERS

Three such conferences are on the books, so far, for 1954:

Northeastern Region (12 States) - New York City, February 9-11

Central States Region -

Lake Hope, Ohio (4 States) - First week of May

Green Lake, Wis. (8 States) - July 13-15

TIMELY 4-H STUDY

Charlene Lindsay, of Missouri, chose as her master's thesis at Wisconsin the important problem of "Increasing the Effectiveness of 4-H Inservice Training." She is currently completing a summary of the thesis, copies of which will be available upon request.

WITH 4-H FOLKS IN THE STATES

It's welcome back to the 4-H ranks for James F. Keim, of Pennsylvania. Jim was formerly a State 4-H staff worker who, during the war, was in military government and then in extension work in Germany subsequent to that time. He returned to Pennsylvania over a year ago to develop discussion programs on foreign affairs.

Utah has the welcome mat out for Miss Amy R. Kearsley, who transferred in November from home demonstration agent to the position of assistant supervisor of youth programs.

Mrs. Lula W. Martin, of Alabama, assumed duties December 1 as Negro State 4-H club agent-Girls. She will have headquarters at Tuskegee Institute.

Edwin Lee Kirby, of Ohio, is spending the year at Cornell on study leave. Raymond E. Fort, of Kansas, is also making plans for a 3 months' leave starting in March.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

- Georgia - Where they have a million-dollar grant from the Kellogg Foundation to add to the fund for building the 4-H Club Center at Rock Eagle Park. "Bill" Sutton says, incidentally, that their fund-raising campaign is not over by any means.
- Iowa - Where October, 4-H enrollment time, was keyed to the 50th anniversary of 4-H activity. Just 50 years ago this fall a Keokuk County superintendent of schools sent out letters arranging for meetings to discuss "Do we need an education of the heart and hand as greatly as an education of the head?" Congratulations, also, to the extension editor's office for an excellent public relations job, including furnishing mats, layout, and copy suggestions for a full-page newspaper advertisement in each county in support of enrollment month.
- Maryland - Whose 4-H dairy cattle judging team won top honors at the National Dairy Cattle Congress in Waterloo, Iowa. This honor brings with it the opportunity to be official representative of 4-H Clubs in the United States at the Royal Show in England. Letters of invitation have come from Maj. M. Hiles, O.B.E., secretary-treasurer of the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs of Britain, and Alec Hobson, O.B.E., secretary, Royal Agricultural Society of England.
- Minnesota - Where Older Youth groups have scored again for clever theming for an event. This time, they chose "Strike It Rich" for the eight district Rural Youth Officer training meetings held in November. The participants talked in such terms as: How do you plan rich educational programs? How do you provide rich experiences in working on committees? How do you plan rich recreational events?
- Washington - Where they have worked out and successfully use the idea of leaders-as-trainers-of-leaders. Looks like another good way to spread the influence of experienced volunteer leadership and at the same time give those folks additional satisfactions of service.
- Wisconsin - For the superb job of handling the craft exhibits and workshop during the Club Congress. Our only regret - not enough time to try out the many creative experiences with which the Wisconsin folks challenged us.
- Wyoming - For their 5-year health activity plan. "Chart Your Health Habits," first lap in the series, was emphasized in 1953. Literature just off the press for 1954 is titled "Sanitation and Disease Prevention." To follow in the succeeding years will be emphasis on nutrition and dental hygiene, mental health and emotional maturity, and posture and foot health. The State 4-H Leaders Council and the Wyoming State Board of Health both give full cooperation.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES AT NATIONAL MEETINGS

Kenyon E. Giese, of Loganville, Wis., is currently attending the American Farm Bureau Federation meetings in Chicago as 4 H Club representative. Kenyon, a 10-year 4-H'er, was honored as achievement winner at the recent Club Congress.

About 50 youth attended the Farm Youth Section, Farm Safety Division of the National Safety Congress, also held in Chicago in October. Both youth and adults looked upon this participation with favor. Joan Berryman, 4-H girl from Illinois, spoke well on 4-H interest in safety. Randall Swanson, farm safety specialist of Wisconsin, is new farm safety chairman.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO LEADERS

The enclosed talk, given by Laurel Sabrosky at the annual extension conference in Wisconsin, summarizes a number of significant studies and points up some of their implications to extension work. We have had stimulating discussions as a result of checking this material.

A complete report of the 1953 National 4-H Record Judging Committee is enclosed for all State 4-H Club leaders. This report was received by the Extension Subcommittee on 4-H Club Work at its last meeting. Action taken on specific items is recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Note that a number of suggestions relate to the conduct of the awards programs within the States. Our sincere thanks go to the members of the committee who served so well this year.

Games for Small Groups, a publication compiled by Dr. E. J. Niederfrank, is being distributed by the National Committee in the interest of the 4-H recreational and rural arts program. You have all had a hand in assembling this booklet, for each State submitted a list of the 10 most-liked games.

Also included is a copy of a new folder, Build Your Own Portable Visual Aid Board. This was prepared by Dr. E. J. Niederfrank after attending a Rhode Island 3-day home demonstration staff conference on leader training methods. Copies are available for sending small supplies to counties for use with local groups. Obtain it through your State publication distribution officer.

Be on the lookout for a set of material on "Farm Business Training" for young people, which is being sent by the American Institute of Cooperation, at the request of the Extension Subcommittee on 4 H Club Work. Included will be:

- (1) A statement of objectives of the youth education program of the institute.
- (2) An interesting booklet, How We Organize To Do Business in America.

You will note the broad approach to the subject of farm business training which the institute is taking. It has the endorsement of farm organizations, commercial groups, and educational agencies.

COMMUNITY SERVICE IN THE FIELD OF MENTAL HEALTH

Community-service activities with a health slant might well be geared to Mental Health Week, scheduled for next May 2 to 8. This observance is part of the educational program of the entire mental health movement, which unites voluntary organizations, governmental agencies, and civic groups. These citizen organizations would appreciate help from young people, and the club members will gain in personality development.

4-H PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES AT WORK

The Safety Committee reports that the leaders' manual is in semifinal stage. Plans call for using it on a test run during 1954 in a very few counties in States represented by committee members. Minus "bugs," it should be in good shape and available in 1955.

The Committee on Spiritual Emphasis reports that all State 4-H leaders have received information regarding the God-Home-Country award now being offered by the Lutheran Church. Further information will be sent to you as part of the minutes of the Extension Subcommittee on 4-H Club Work. The committee is especially encouraged by the careful, long-range consideration that is being given. Study is also being given to the possibility of establishing a recognition program in which all faiths and denominations might participate, perhaps along the lines of the award mentioned above.

The Committee on 4-H Uniform and Supplies asks your cooperation in getting an expression about the National 4-H Camp uniform. They are to make a report and a recommendation to the Subcommittee on 4-H Club work for its meeting in February, 1954. Since time is short, the committee asks your cooperation in having the blanks returned to us by January 15. We will assemble and forward them to the committee chairman. There are two blanks:

For 1953 National Camp Delegates - 4 copies included for
State 4 H Club Leader

For Leaders (State professional staff - 4-H and others) - sheet attached

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Aiton

E. W. Aiton, Leader
Division of 4-H Club and YMW Programs

C. C. Lang *George Foster*

C. C. Lang
Associate Leader

George Foster
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W. E. Schmidt

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Fern Shipley

Fern Shipley
Associate Leader

Enclosures.

FOR USE IN REPLYING TO THE REQUEST BY THE 4-H UNIFORM COMMITTEE

Leaders' Uniform at National 4-H Camp

The Evaluation Committee representing 4-H delegates at the 1953 National 4-H Club Camp suggested that the men and women leaders be in uniform for this event.

1. Do you prefer the present uniform for women leaders?

White dress - yes_____ No_____

White hat - yes_____ No_____

White shoes - yes_____ No_____

2. If not, what do you suggest?_____

3. Do you prefer the present uniform for men leaders?

White duck or flannel trousers - yes_____ No_____

White shirt - yes_____ No_____

Coat (preferably dark) - yes_____ No_____

Dark-green tie - yes_____ No_____

4. If not, what do you suggest?_____

Uniform for Boys and Girls at National 4-H Camp

1. Do you like the National 4 H Camp Uniform for girls?

Plastic purse - yes_____ No_____

Suit dress - yes_____ No_____

Beanie - yes_____ No_____

2. Do you like the National 4-H Camp uniform for boys?

White trousers - yes_____ No_____

White long sleeved shirt - yes_____ No_____

Dark-green tie - yes_____ No_____

3. Is there anything you would like to change in the:

Girls' uniform?_____

Boys' uniform?_____

Please return by January 15 to Fern Shipley, Division of 4-H Club and YMW Programs, Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

